



U.S. Department of Justice

Michael J. Sullivan
United States Attorney
District of Massachusetts

Main Reception: (617) 748-3100

John Joseph Moakley United States Courthouse
1 Courthouse Way
Suite 9200
Boston, Massachusetts 02210

May 9, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE

Mr. Paul Markham
Box 101
Melrose 02176
Fax (781) 665-4448

Re: United States v. Ramon Villa a/k/a Lorenzo Velasquez, et al. - Criminal No. 04-CR-10160 (WGY)

Dear Mr. Markham:

This letter sets forth the Agreement between the United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts ("the U.S. Attorney") and your client, ("Defendant"), in the above-captioned case. The Agreement is as follows:

1. Change of Plea

At the earliest practicable date, or on such date as is set by the Court, Defendant will plead guilty to the following count of the Superseding Indictment:

COUNT ONE: **(21 U.S.C. § 846 - Conspiracy To Distribute And To Possess With Intent To Distribute Cocaine)**

Defendant expressly and unequivocally admits that he in fact knowingly, intentionally and willfully committed the crimes charged in Count One, and is in fact guilty of this offense.

2. Penalties

As to Count One, Defendant faces a statutory mandatory minimum term of five years' imprisonment and a maximum statutory

term of imprisonment of forty years, a fine of up to \$2,000,000.00, a mandatory minimum 4 years of supervised release and a maximum of life, and a \$100.00 special assessment.

Defendant may also be deportable and/or excludable by the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement as a consequence of his conviction of the offenses to which he is pleading guilty.

3. Sentencing Guidelines

The sentence to be imposed upon Defendant is within the discretion of the sentencing Court, subject to the statutory maximum and mandatory minimum penalties set forth above, and the provisions of the Sentencing Reform Act and the United States Sentencing Guidelines promulgated thereunder, as modified by United States v. Booker and United States v. Fanfan, U.S. ___, 2005 WL 50108 (January 12, 2005). In imposing the sentence, the Court must consult and take into account the United States Sentencing Guidelines, along with the other factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. §3553(a).

The parties will take the following positions at sentencing with respect to the application of the United States Sentencing Guidelines:

- (a) As to Count One, the parties agree to take the position that Defendant has a base offense level of 26, pursuant to U.S.S.G. §§ 2D1.1(c)(7), based on defendant conspiring to distribute or to possess with the intent to distribute 500 grams to 2 kilograms of cocaine.
- (b) Safety valve - The U.S. Attorney will recommend applying § 5C1.2 of the Sentencing Guidelines and 18 U.S.C. § 3553(f) if the U.S. Probation Office finds that Defendant meets the requirements of §5C1.2(a)(1)-(4), and the U.S. Attorney finds that Defendant has personally satisfied §5C1.2(a)(5). Based upon the information available to the government as of the execution of the plea agreement, the U.S. Attorney finds that Defendant has satisfied § 5C1.2(a)(5). This finding is subject to change should the U.S. Attorney learn of additional information between the time of execution of the plea agreement and sentencing that contradicts this finding.
- (c) Acceptance of Responsibility - Based on Defendant's prompt acceptance of personal responsibility for the

offense(s) of conviction in this case, and information known to the U.S. Attorney at this time, the U.S.

Attorney agrees to recommend that the Court reduce by three levels Defendant's Adjusted Offense Level under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1.

The U.S. Attorney expressly reserves the right to seek an upward departure pursuant to U.S.S.G. §4A1.3 should any of Defendant's prior state convictions be vacated or Defendant's Criminal History Category otherwise change after his indictment in this case. Thus, for example, the government may contend that an upward departure under §4A1.3 is appropriate if a state-court conviction that existed at the time of Defendant's indictment is vacated and that vacation alters Defendant's Criminal History Category.

The U.S. Attorney specifically reserves the right not to recommend a reduction under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1 if, at any time between his execution of this Agreement and sentencing Defendant:

- (a) Fails to admit a complete factual basis for the plea;
- (b) Fails to truthfully admit his conduct in the offenses of conviction;
- (c) Falsely denies, or frivolously contests, relevant conduct for which Defendant is accountable under U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3;
- (d) Fails to provide truthful information about his financial status;
- (e) Gives false or misleading testimony in any proceeding relating to the criminal conduct charged in this case and any relevant conduct for which Defendant is accountable under U.S.S.G. § 1B1.3;
- (f) Engages in acts which form a basis for finding that Defendant has obstructed or impeded the administration of justice under U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1;
- (g) Intentionally fails to appear in Court or violates any condition of release;
- (h) Commits a crime;

- (i) Transfers any asset protected under any provision of this Agreement; and/or
- (j) Attempts to withdraw his guilty plea.

Defendant expressly understands that he may not withdraw his plea of guilty if, for any of the reasons listed above, the U.S. Attorney does not recommend that he receive a reduction in Offense Level for acceptance of responsibility.

Defendant expressly understands that, in addition to declining to recommend an acceptance-of-responsibility adjustment, the Government may seek an upward adjustment pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1 if Defendant obstructs justice after date of this Agreement.

4. Sentence Recommendation

In the event the U.S. Attorney does not file a motion under U.S.S.G. §5K1.1 and/or 18 U.S.C. §3553(e), the U.S. Attorney agrees to recommend the following sentence before the District Court:

- (a) A sentence of imprisonment within the applicable Guideline Sentencing Range as determined by the Court, but not below any applicable minimum mandatory sentence;
- (b) A fine within the applicable fine range under the Sentencing Guidelines, unless the Court finds, pursuant to USSG § 5E1.2(e) that Defendant is not able and, even with the use of a reasonable installment schedule, is not likely to become able to pay a fine;
- (c) A term of supervised release of 4 years, with the special condition the Defendant does not possess a firearm or dangerous weapon;
- (d) A mandatory special assessment of \$100.00.

Defendant agrees that he will provide to the U.S. Attorney expert reports, motions, memoranda of law and documentation of any kind on which he intends to rely at sentencing not later than fourteen (14) days before sentencing. Any basis for sentencing with respect to which all expert reports, motions, memoranda of law and documentation have not been provided to the U.S. Attorney at least fourteen (14) days before sentencing shall be deemed

waived.

In the event of an appeal from, or collateral challenge to, Defendant's sentence, the U.S. Attorney reserves his right to argue the correctness of Defendant's sentence and the manner in which the District Court determines it.

5. Payment of Mandatory Special Assessment

Defendant agrees to pay the mandatory special assessment to the Clerk of the Court on or before the date of sentencing, unless Defendant establishes to the satisfaction of the Court that Defendant is financially unable to do so.

6. Cooperation

a. Terms of Cooperation

Defendant agrees to cooperate fully with law enforcement agents and government attorneys. He must provide complete and truthful information to all law enforcement personnel. If his testimony is requested, he must testify truthfully and completely before any grand jury, and at any hearing and trial. Defendant must answer all questions put to him by any law enforcement agents or government attorneys and must not withhold any information. He must not attempt to protect any person or entity through false information or omission, or to implicate falsely any person or entity. Upon request, he must furnish all documents, objects and other evidence in his possession, custody or control that are relevant to the government's inquiries.

Defendant understands that he has a right to have counsel present when communicating with representatives of the government concerning the criminal conduct with which he has been charged. To facilitate his cooperation, Defendant hereby knowingly and voluntarily waives this right with respect to all debriefings by law enforcement agents and government attorneys and all appearances to testify. This waiver may be revoked at any time by a specific request by Defendant or his counsel without otherwise affecting the terms or enforceability of this Agreement.

To enable the Court to have the benefit of all relevant sentencing information, Defendant waives any rights he may have to prompt sentencing and will join in any requests by the U.S. Attorney that sentencing be postponed until Defendant's cooperation is complete. Defendant understands that the date of Defendant's sentencing is within the sole discretion of the Court

and that this Agreement may require Defendant's cooperation to continue even after Defendant has been sentenced. Defendant's failure to continue to cooperate pursuant to the terms of this Agreement after sentence is imposed shall constitute a breach of this Agreement by Defendant.

b. Substantial Assistance Motion

In the event that Defendant provides substantial assistance in the investigation or prosecution of another person who has committed a criminal offense, the U.S. Attorney agrees that, at or before the time of sentencing, the U.S. Attorney will make a motion under U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1, and if the U.S. Attorney determines it to be appropriate, 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e) so that the sentencing court may impose a sentence below that which otherwise would be required under the relevant statutes.

The determination whether Defendant has provided substantial assistance rests solely in the discretion of the U.S. Attorney and is not subject to appeal or review. The U.S. Attorney expressly reserves the right to decline to file a motion pursuant to U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 if Defendant violates any condition of his pretrial release, violates any of the requirements of honesty and candor detailed in paragraph 6(a) above, or engages in any criminal conduct after the date he signs this Agreement. The U.S. Attorney reserves the right, in his sole discretion, to file a motion under U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 but not under 18 U.S.C. § 3553(e). Defendant may not withdraw his plea if the U.S. Attorney determines that Defendant has not rendered substantial assistance, if the U.S. Attorney determines to file a motion under U.S.S.G. § 5K1.1 but not under 18 U.S.S.G. § 3553(e), or if the Court refuses to grant the U.S. Attorney's motion for a downward departure.

c. Sentence Recommendation with Substantial Assistance

If Defendant provides substantial assistance, subject to all the provisions of paragraphs 6(a) and (b) above, the U.S. Attorney will advise the sentencing judge of the full nature, extent and value of the assistance provided by Defendant.

The U.S. Attorney reserves the right to recommend a particular sentence or sentencing range, or to make no recommendation at Defendant's sentencing.

d. Letter Immunity

In return for Defendant's full and truthful cooperation, the U.S. Attorney agrees not to use any information provided by Defendant pursuant to this Agreement or pursuant to the proffer letter dated November 4, 2004 (or any information directly or indirectly derived therefrom) against Defendant in any criminal case except in a prosecution (1) for perjury or obstruction of justice, or for making a false statement after the date of this Agreement; or (2) for an act of physical violence against the person of another, or conspiracy to commit any such act of violence. The U.S. Attorney reserves the right to respond fully and completely to all requests for information by the District Court and U.S. Probation Office in this case. All such disclosures, however, shall be made subject to the provisions constraining the use of this information by the District Court and U.S. Probation Office contained in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.8(a) and the commentary thereto. Notwithstanding the provisions of U.S.S.G. § 1B1.8(b)(5) and the commentary thereto, the U.S. Attorney agrees to take the position that at the time of sentencing information provided by Defendant pursuant to this Agreement should not be used either in determining where within the applicable guideline range to sentence Defendant or in determining whether, or to what extent, a departure from the Sentencing Guidelines is warranted.

If the U.S. Attorney determines that Defendant has breached this Agreement by making any false, incomplete or misleading statement, or by providing any false, incomplete or misleading information to any law enforcement personnel, grand jury or court, the U.S. Attorney may terminate this Agreement as set forth below, and may also prosecute Defendant for any and all offenses that could be charged against him in the District of Massachusetts, including, but not limited to, false statements and perjury.

7. Protection of Assets for Payment of Restitution, Forfeiture and Fine

Defendant agrees not to transfer, or authorize the transfer of, any asset which has been restrained by Order of the Court in this case or any asset, whether or not restrained, which Defendant has agreed to forfeit pursuant to this Agreement.

Defendant agrees not to transfer, or authorize the transfer of any other asset in which he has an interest without prior express written consent of the U.S. Attorney, except for:

- (1) Assets subject to superior, secured interests of

innocent third parties, in which Defendant has an equity interest of less than \$ 5,000;

- (2) Ordinary living expenses necessary to house, clothe, transport and feed Defendant and those to whom he owes a legal duty of support, so long as such assets do not exceed \$ 2,000 per month; and
- (3) Attorney's fees incurred in connection with this criminal case.

This prohibition shall be effective as of the date of Defendant's execution of this Agreement and continue until the fine, forfeiture and/or restitution ordered by the Court at sentencing.

Defendant further agrees that, prior to sentencing, he will truthfully and accurately complete the sworn financial statement enclosed with this Agreement.

8. Court Not Bound By Agreement

The sentencing recommendations made by the parties and their respective calculations under the Sentencing Guidelines are not binding upon the U.S. Probation Office or the sentencing judge. Within the maximum sentence which Defendant faces under the applicable law, the sentence to be imposed is within the sole discretion of the sentencing judge. Defendant's plea will be tendered pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(c)(1)(B). Defendant may not withdraw his plea of guilty regardless of what sentence is imposed. Nor may Defendant withdraw his plea because the U.S. Probation Office or the sentencing judge declines to follow the Sentencing Guidelines calculations or recommendations of the parties. In the event that the sentencing judge declines to follow the Sentencing Guidelines calculations or recommendations of the U.S. Attorney, the U.S. Attorney reserves the right to defend the sentencing judge's calculations and sentence in any subsequent appeal or collateral challenge.

9. Information For Presentence Report

Defendant agrees to provide all information requested by the U.S. Probation Office concerning his assets.

10. Civil Liability

By entering into this Agreement, the U.S. Attorney does not compromise any civil liability, including but not limited to any

tax liability, which Defendant may have incurred or may incur as a result of his conduct and his plea of guilty to the charges specified in paragraph one of this Agreement.

11. Rejection of Plea By Court

Should Defendant's guilty plea not be accepted by the Court for whatever reason, or later be withdrawn on motion of Defendant, this Agreement shall be null and void at the option of the U.S. Attorney.

12. Breach of Agreement

If the U.S. Attorney determines that Defendant has failed to comply with any provision of this Agreement, has violated any condition of his pretrial release, or has committed any crime following his execution of this Agreement, the U.S. Attorney may, at his sole option, be released from his commitments under this Agreement in their entirety by notifying Defendant, through counsel or otherwise, in writing. The U.S. Attorney may also pursue all remedies available to him under the law, irrespective of whether he elects to be released from his commitments under this Agreement. Further, the U.S. Attorney may pursue any and all charges which have been, or are to be, dismissed pursuant to this Agreement. Defendant recognizes that no such breach by him of an obligation under this Agreement shall give rise to grounds for withdrawal of his guilty plea. Defendant understands that, should he breach any provision of this agreement, the U.S. Attorney will have the right to use against Defendant before any grand jury, at any trial or hearing, or for sentencing purposes, any statements which may be made by him, and any information, materials, documents or objects which may be provided by him to the government subsequent to this Agreement, without any limitation. In this regard, Defendant hereby waives any defense to any charges which he might otherwise have under any statute of limitations or the Speedy Trial Act.

13. Who Is Bound By Agreement

This Agreement is limited to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, and cannot and does not bind the Attorney General of the United States or any other federal, state or local prosecutive authorities.

14. Complete Agreement

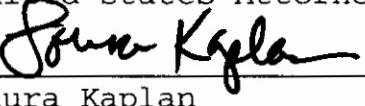
This letter contains the complete and only agreement between the parties relating to the disposition of this case. No

promises, representations or agreements have been made. This Agreement supersedes prior understandings, if any, of the parties, whether written or oral. This Agreement can be modified or supplemented only in a written memorandum signed by the parties or on the record in court.

If this letter accurately reflects the Agreement between the U.S. Attorney and Defendant, please have Defendant sign the Acknowledgment of Agreement below. Please also sign below as Witness. Return the original of this letter to Assistant U.S. Attorney Cynthia W. Lie.

Very truly yours,

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN
United States Attorney

By: 
Laura Kaplan
Organized and Violent Crime
Section, Chief

Cynthia W. Lie
Assistant U.S. Attorney

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PLEA AGREEMENT

I have read this letter in its entirety and discussed it with my attorney. I hereby acknowledge that it fully sets forth my agreement with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts. I further state that no additional promises or representations have been made to me by any official of the United States in connection with this matter. I understand the crimes to which I have agreed to plead guilty, the maximum penalties for those offenses and Sentencing Guideline penalties potentially applicable to them. I am satisfied with the legal representation provided to me by my attorney. We have had sufficient time to meet and discuss my case. We have discussed the charges against me, possible defenses I might have, the terms of this Plea Agreement and whether I should go to trial. I am entering into this Agreement freely, voluntarily, and knowingly because I am guilty of the offenses to which I am pleading guilty and I believe this Agreement is in my best interest.

Ramon Villa

Ramon Villa a/k/a Lorenzo
Velasquez
Defendant

Date: 6/2/05

I certify that Ramon Villa a/k/a Lorenzo Velasquez has read this Agreement and that we have discussed its meaning. I believe he understands the Agreement and is entering into the Agreement freely, voluntarily and knowingly.

Paul Markham
Paul Markham, Esq.
Attorney for Defendant

Date: 6/2/05